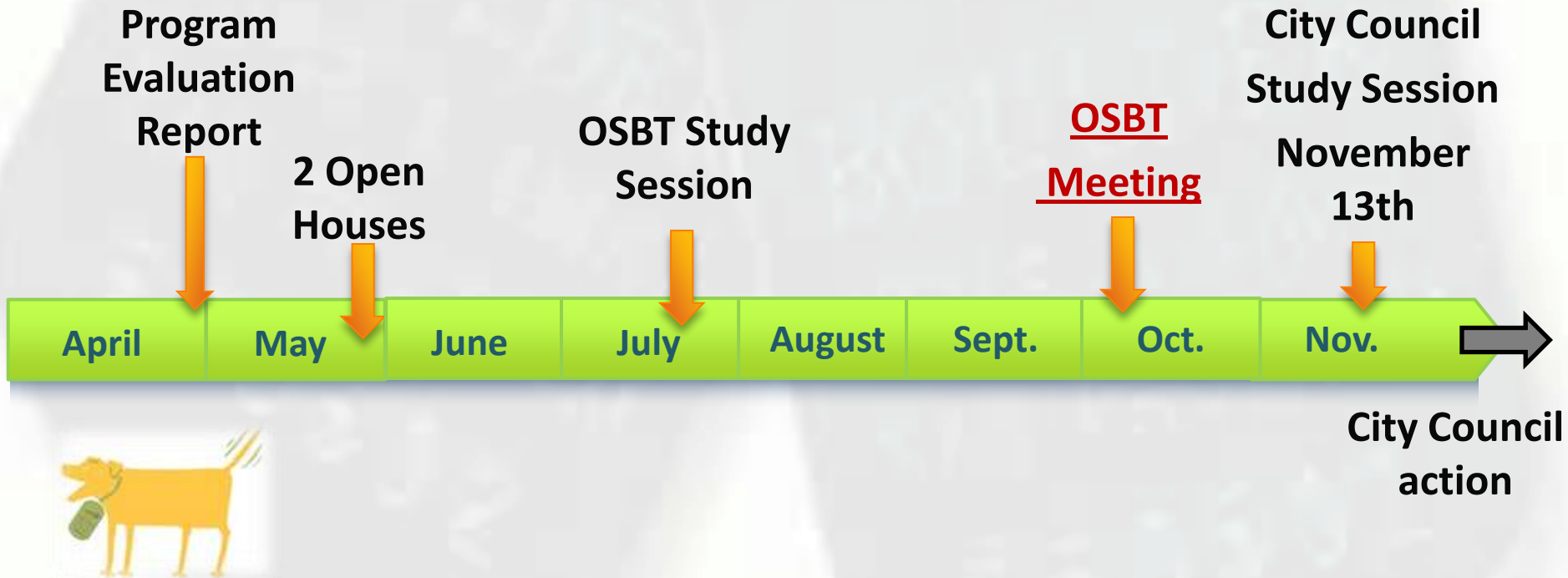# Open Space and Mountain Parks "Overarching Issues"

Voice and Sight Tag Program Evaluation

Purpose

Recommend Tag Program enhancements for City Council to discuss at the November 13, 2012 study session.

Program Evaluation Report

2 Open Houses

OSBT Study Session

OSBT Meeting

City Council Study Session November 13th

April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.

City Council action

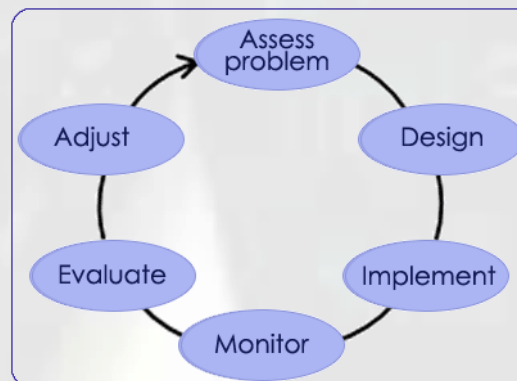# Evaluation of the Voice and Sight Tag Program

- The Voice and Sight (Tag) Program included in the VMP as a trial program.

- Monitoring concluded compliance lower than standards in VMP.

- City Council identified the Tag Program as an Overarching Issue.

- OSBT recommended staff examine potential enhancements.

Information Needs Identified at the July Study Session

1. The feasibility of a demonstration test or information session

2. How changes could be incrementally and adaptively implemented.

3. Program performance standards to guide adaptive management.

Capacity for Test or Information Session

Demonstration Test

Tests per Week	Schedule	Participants per Test	Weeks per Year	Participants
4	Two weekday evenings and two weekend days	10-15	30	1,200-1,800
6	Three weekday evenings and three on weekend days	10-15	30	1,800-2,700
9	Three weekday evenings and six on weekend days	10-15	30	2,700-4,050

Information Session

# Sessions per Week	Schedule	Participants per session	Weeks per Year	Participants
4	Two weekday evenings and two on weekend days	20-30	50	4,000-6,000
4	Two weekday evenings and two on weekend days	40-50	50	8,000-10,000
3	Two weekday evenings and one on the weekend	75-100	50	11,250-15,000

Example Adaptive Process for Implementing Tag Program Changes

Year 1

→ Revised video

→ Add *prerequisite* requirement (online test, information class, demonstration test)

→ Require rabies vaccination information

→ Revised fee structure

→ Additional education strategies

→ Revised penalties

→ Add reinstatement test
→ Add renewal period

→ Monitoring *(revised standards for assessing program)*

Assessment

Year 3

→ Assess monitoring results

→ Adaptive management actions if standards not met

  ✱ *Demonstration test*

Assessment

Year 6

→ Assess monitoring results

→ Adaptive management actions

  ✱ *Additional prerequisites*

  ✱ Additional restrictions (*by residency or trail corridor*)

Example Tag Program Performance Standard and Measure

Adaptive Management Standard and Measure

Standard

90% Compliance
(*VMP*)

Compliance Measure

- Immediate response to command

Recommended Tag Program Enhancements

1. Prerequisite Options

2. Core Options

3. Broader Overarching Issue Options

Tag Program Enhancements

Prerequisite Options:

- Demonstration test of dog and guardian

- Attend an information session

- Complete an online test

Staff Recommendation for Prerequisite:

Require attendance of an information session

Rationale:
- Ensures each individual participant has awareness of program
  - ✓ Requirements and regulations
  - ✓ Behaviors that contribute to conflict
  - ✓ Program performance standards
  - ✓ Training techniques and opportunities
- Increases participation commitment and investment
- Feasible to offer class frequently enough to handle high number of program participants
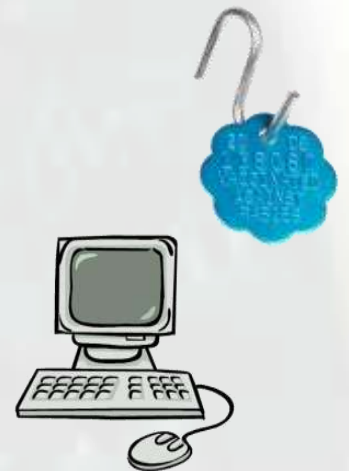- Minimal class fee would cover cost

Tag Program Enhancements

Core Options:

- Require proof of vaccinations (e.g., vaccination number, City of Boulder dog license)

- Provide education, outreach, training and/or support peer to peer outreach

- Modify consequences for violations

- Administrative Changes

Staff Recommendation:

Require basic rabies vaccination information for the Tag Program and all dogs to display vaccination tag on OSMP properties.

- *Provide Boulder dog license or rabies vaccination information to validate current vaccination*

Rationale :
- Visitor and dog safety
- Reinforces city and county requirement for vaccination of dogs
- Facilitates access to rabies vaccination information for dog bite incidents on OSMP
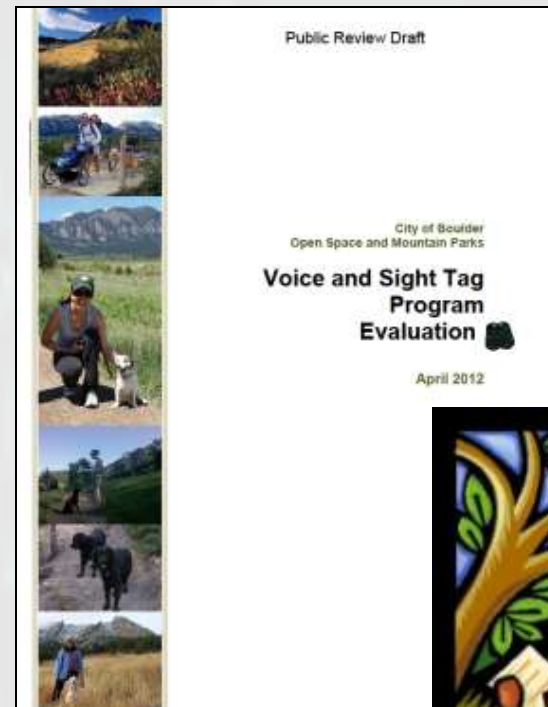
Staff Recommended Education Strategies

- Revise and update the voice and sight video

- Improve clarity and information on signs

- Palm cards for explaining requirements

- Increase outreach and education to visitors without dogs

#	Strategy	Strategies for OSMP	Strategies for the Community
1	Provide training programs		✓
2	Increase outreach/education about training opportunities	✓ Limited role for OSMP, can be accomplished through information session	✓
3	Support peer to peer outreach and education programs •Adopt-a-Trail program •Dog ambassador program (i.e., FIDOS Trails Group)	✓ Limited role for OSMP, but there are some ways to support stakeholder efforts	✓
4	Revise and update the voice and sight video	✓	
5	Create refresher videos on requirements, etiquette or issues	Not recommended at this time	
6	Send instructive educational information emails to participants	Not recommended at this time; Communication should be limited to important program updates	
7	Provide training walks for new guardians		✓
8	Improve clarity and information on signs	✓	
9	Palm cards for explaining requirements	✓	
10	Implement a "gold tag" dog training incentive program	Not recommended at this time	
11	Increase outreach and education to visitors without dogs about voice and sight control and what to expect	✓	✓
12	Provide areas on OSMP where voice and sight control training is allowed	✓ Possible to consider under specific conditions and a well-suited property	

Violation Consequences

- Increase fines

- The number of violations allowed before revocation

- Additional consequences for violations

Ranger Issued Dog Violations (2005 -2011)

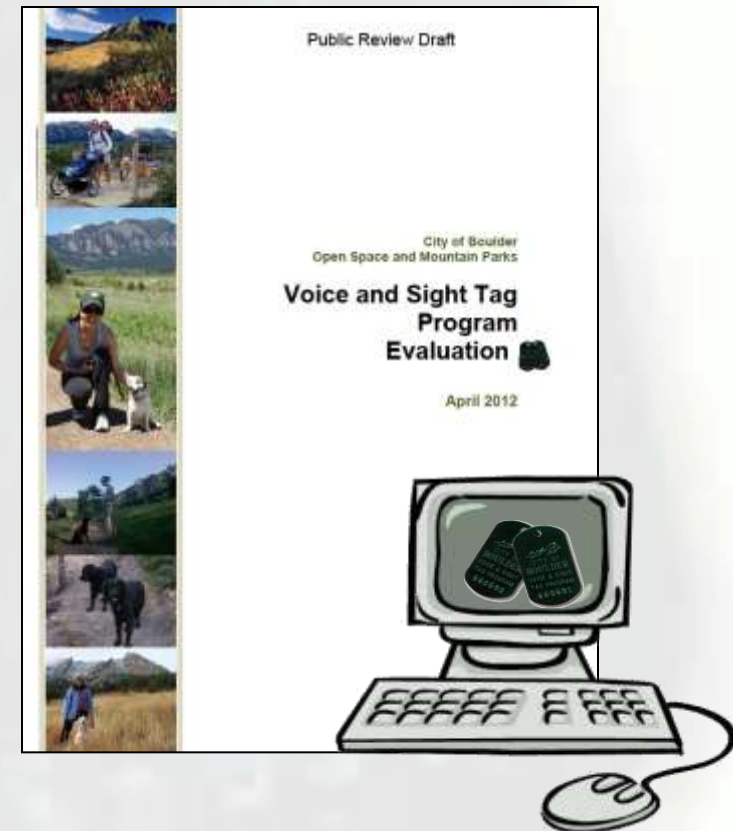| Year	Voice and Sight Control and Off Leash Dog Violations B.R.C. 6-1-16	Voice and Sight Evidence Tag Required B.R.C. 6-13-2	Aggressive Animal Prohibited B.R.C. 6-1-20	Failure to Protect Wildlife B.R.C. 8-3-5	Failure to Remove Excrement B.R.C. 6-1-18	Dog Prohibited or Seasonal Leash B.R.C. 8-3-3	Total OSMP Violations	Dog Related as % of Total Violations
2005	309	0	14	16	7	54	547	73%
2006	220	55	5	7	4	81	525	71%
2007	327	234	9	13	6	57	765	84%
2008	223	194	6	12	1	61	637	78%
2009	342	172	10	9	2	65	847	71%
2010	236	95	7	13	2	52	659	61%
2011	246	141	6	16	8	59	687	69%
TOTAL	1,903	891	57	86	30	429	4,667	73%

Serious Violations

Low #'s

Staff Recommendation for Violation Consequences:

- Fines ($50, $100, $200) are adequate except increase the fine for not having a voice and sight tag (B.R.C. 6-13-2) to $100, $200, $300.
- Revocation with one conviction:
  - ✓ Aggressive animal prohibited (B.R.C. 6-1-20)
  - ✓ Failure to protect wildlife or livestock (B.R.C. 8-3-5)
- Revocation with two convictions (in two years) for all other dog-related violations *(including failure to remove excrement)*
- Encourage courts to require watching video and community service for egregious or repeat convictions
- Finalize reinstatement demonstration test
- Provide rangers with field access to information

Administrative Strategies

- Registrations fees

- Differential fees

- Renewal on a periodic basis

Staff Recommendation for Administrative Changes:

- Maintain a City of Boulder household registration fee of $15
  - ✓ Institute a household fee of $20 for Boulder County residents
  - ✓ Institute a household fee of $30 for non Boulder County residents
- Institute a $5 fee for each additional household participant
- Continue to provide one tag with each household registration and $5 for each additional tag
- Add an annual household renewal fee of $10, $15, and $20 based on City of Boulder, Boulder County, and non Boulder County address.

Staff Recommendation for On-Trail or Residency Options:

Determine on-trail requirements through the Overarching Issue on-trail policy review.

Do not limit program access by residency, managed through differential fees.

Tag Program Enhancements Recommendations

Year 1 – 2014

→ Require attendance at information session

→ Require rabies vaccination information

→ Revised fee structure

→ Additional education strategies

→ Revised penalties

→ Add reinstatement test

→ New fee structure by residency and annual renewal

→ Monitoring *(revised standards for assessing program)*

Assessment

Year 3 – 2016

→ Assess monitoring results

→ Adaptive management actions if standards not met

  ✳ *Demonstration test*

Assessment

Year 6

→ Assess monitoring results

→ Adaptive management actions

  ✳ *Additional prerequisites*

  ✳ Additional restrictions *(by residency or trail corridor)*

Questions?